



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

JAN 23 2015

Ref: 8ENF-UFO

CERTIFIED MAIL 7009-3410-0000-2599-4692
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Don Smith
Slawson Exploration Company, Inc.
1675 Broadway
Suite 1600
Denver, CO 80202-4714

Re: Underground Injection Control (UIC)
Notice of Violation:
Loss of Mechanical Integrity
Big Bend 1-5 Well
EPA Permit ID# ND22184-08837
Mountrail County, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Smith:

On January 15, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) learned that the Slawson Exploration Company, Inc. injection well referenced above lost mechanical integrity on January 13, 2015. Pursuant to the above-referenced UIC Permit and Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 144.51(q)(1) (40 C.F.R. § 144.51(q)(1)), you must establish and maintain mechanical integrity. A loss of mechanical integrity is a violation of this requirement.

Pursuant to the above-referenced UIC Permit and the regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 144.51(q)(2), you must immediately cease injection into this well. Before injection may resume, you must demonstrate that the well has mechanical integrity by passing a mechanical integrity test (MIT). You must also receive written authorization from the EPA.

You have submitted information describing what action you intend to take regarding the well. It is expected that you will return this well to compliance within ninety (90) days of the loss of mechanical integrity.

If you choose to plug and abandon this well, the approved plugging and abandonment plan that is incorporated into the permit must be followed. Any deviation from that plan must be submitted to the EPA for approval prior to the plugging operation.

Failure to comply with the UIC regulations found at 40 C.F.R. Parts 144 through 148 constitutes one or more violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h. Such non-compliance may subject you to formal enforcement by the EPA, as codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, you may contact Don Breffle at (303) 312-6198. Please direct all correspondence to the attention of Don Breffle at Mail Code 8ENF-UFO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arturo Palomares", with a small flourish at the end.

Arturo Palomares, Director
Water Technical Enforcement Program
Office of Enforcement, Compliance
and Environmental Justice

cc: Mark Fox, Chairman, Three Affiliated Tribes
Edmund Baker, Environmental Director
Mark Bohrer, North Dakota Industrial Commission, Oil & Gas Division